

Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge

Volunteer Newsletter

August 2012



What's New?



The Refuge is the proud recipient of two more fishing line monofilament recycling receptacles! Local student, Micah, from Elwood, UT, chose to do his Eagle Scout project on the Refuge. He designed and constructed 4 of these receptacle tubes to help keep broken fishing line off the ground and from entangling wildlife.

And how about a new trail! The Marsh Meander, a 1.2 mi. extension loop off the existing Wetland Walk, was finished by our YCC crew and Maintenance staff in just 3 ½ days and will have its grand opening this

Saturday, August 18th during Shorebird Saturday. This easy strolling trail wraps around the wetland providing great views of herons and waterfowl, and already has two park benches and a photography blind...both built by Eagle Scouts. We hope you'll enjoy it, too!

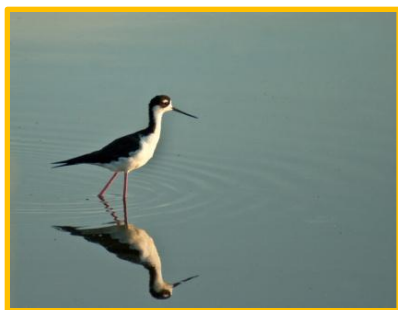


Thumbs-Up!

We want to send out a big THANK YOU and say "Job Well Done" to our presenters at the July Volunteer Workshop Day. June Bywater entertained with her Amazing Journeys speech about two long-distance travelers, a Marbled godwit and a Northern pintail. Avocet Corner Bookstore manager, Tracy Gilson, demonstrated how to turn plastic shopping bags into recycled and reusable shopping bags by knitting them together. And Ted & Carolyn McGrath informed us all on what they and the Browns have been up to with the water sampling project. Thanks to all that presented and to all that came to enjoy the program.

Another quick THUMBS UP to our Refuge Biologist, Howard Browers, who took time out of his very busy schedule to lead a volunteers only tour of the Refuge wetlands, giving our volunteers a chance to see parts of the Refuge usually closed, to learn about Refuge management and history, and to view thousands of migrating shorebirds!

Refuge Roundup



As summer is coming to an end (with hot temps and dry skies), the birds are beginning to amass. Right now, shorebirds are in abundance, especially in our closed areas off of D-line, but there are many species of "peeps" and bigger shorebirds being seen along the drying canals and wetlands of the Auto Route. And the waterfowl numbers are starting to grow as well, so even though we are pretty dry in many areas – our priority wetlands still have water, and there are many (over 70) species of birds to still be viewed and enjoyed by all.

Teaching season for the Visitor Services staff and Environmental Education volunteers is soon to be upon us . . . so don't be surprised to start seeing big groups of kids around the visitor center, or to find Jason and Katie gone – off teaching up Logan or Blacksmith Fork Canyon. And – if you are interested in helping out with our Environmental Education program – please contact Jason. It looks to be a great season for outside learning!

Upcoming Events and Volunteer Opportunities



❖ Saturday, August 18: **SHOREBIRD SATURDAY!**

Last call for shorebirds! THIS Saturday is SHOREBIRD SATURDAY at the Refuge, and if you're not helping out at the event, we hope you'll stop by with family and friends for some of the fun. Along with games and crafts all day, here is the rest of the great schedule for the day:

10:00 am	<u>SHOREBIRD SATURDAY BEGINS!</u> Walk the trail, drive the auto loop, build your own shorebird, and more!
10:30 am	<u>Grand Opening of new MARSH MEANDER!</u> Join us for ribbon-cutting on our new 1.2 mi. trail extension
11:30 am	"Amazing Journeys" [Auditorium] Refuge volunteer, June Bywater, presents her inspiring talk on two special bird journeys.
12:00 pm	"Crash: a tale of two species" [Auditorium, 50 min.] Nature film on Red knots & horseshoe crabs
1:00 pm	<u>FREE REFUGE TOUR</u> to view shorebirds
1:30 pm	"Day in the Life of a Bird Researcher" [Auditorium] USGS researcher, Matt Stevens, talks about shorebird research on the Refuge.
2:00 pm	"Evaporating Shorelines" [Auditorium, 62 min.] Documentary about the importance of the Great Salt Lake, especially to shorebirds.

HELP! Our bird feeding station is empty. If anyone is interested in being a feeding station steward by donating some feed and helping clean the feeders one month...please contact Jason!

❖ September 28 & 29: **National Federal Duck Stamp Competition!**

This is a once in a lifetime event...the National Federal Duck Stamp Competition and judging is coming to Utah! Come watch as artwork for the next Duck Stamp is chosen! All activities are free and open to the public and will be held at Weber State University. For more information on the program and the Duck Stamp, go to www.fws.gov/duckstamps . . . and get yours today!

❖ Sept. 29 – Oct. 13: **SURVEY HELP!**

Coming up this fall, September 29 through October 13, the Refuge will be participating in the 2nd sampling period for the National Visitor Survey, administered by our partners at USGS. If you like to talk to visitors, we can use your help for this survey effort. We'll again be surveying at both the Wildlife Education Center and the Duckville parking lot, and if you are interested in helping out . . . contact Katie.

Mark Your Calendars and Save the Dates!

- Friday, August 31: **Amateur Photo Contests Entry Deadline!**
- September 28 & 29: **National Federal Duck Stamp Competition!**
- October 1 – 13: **2nd USGS Visitor Survey**

New items @ AVOCET CORNER BOOKSTORE!

Looking for a fun new gift? Look no further! The Avocet Corner Bookstore has lots of new items including several new nature DVDs, gorgeous bird pillows, fun floor puzzles, and a stunning commemorative metal plate celebrating 70 years of the Federal Duck Stamp. And don't forget – Friends of the Bear River Refuge members always get 10% off!!

